



Marine Notice No. 53 of 2021

Notice to all Fishing Vessel Owners, Operators, Skippers and Fishers

Hazards associated with trawling on small fishing vessels

The Department of Transport wishes to bring to the attention of all Fishing Vessel Owners, Operators, Skippers and Fishers a recent report published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) into the marine casualty involving the fishing vessel “FV Alize” off Hook Head, Co. Wexford on 4th January 2020. The fatal incident resulted in the vessel less than 15 metres sinking. The full report may be obtained from the website of the MCIB at www.mcib.ie

In response to the recommendations of the MCIB report, the Department of Transport reminds all Fishing Vessel Owners, Operators and Skippers and crew of fishing vessels of the **hazards associated with Trawling including beam trawling and scallop dredging**.

The Department recommends the following safety measures for all voyages that involve trawling or beam trawling:

Trawling

- Before departure the Skipper should ensure that sufficient crew members with the necessary experience in handling the vessel and for operating the trawling equipment are present onboard.
- All watchkeepers should be aware of the conditions that can affect the stability reserves of the vessel including the use of fuel, stowage of fish and the effects of entrapped water when scuppers are restricted by debris or gear.
- Crew working on deck should be aware of the dangers of equipment failure and the necessary precautions they should take to avoid injury. Winch operators should have received training in the related operations and the necessary actions to take in an emergency.

Beam Trawling

- A fully experienced beam trawler crew should operate the vessel.
- Owners should identify the minimum required number of crew required to safely engage in beam trawling operations, including in relation to minimising risks associated with retrieving dredges etc. The vessel should never engage in beam trawling without such minimum numbers of experienced crew onboard.

Owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that at all times their vessel is maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of the applicable Regulations or Code of Practice for Fishing Vessels less than 15 m in length overall. If for any reason the vessel does not continue to comply with any of these requirements, the owner must immediately notify the Authorised Person who issued the Declaration of Compliance or the Marine Survey Office as appropriate.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
28/09/2021

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport